



English rendering of Press statement by the Prime Minister during the joint press statement with the Prime Minister of Malaysia

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Your Excellency, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim,

Distinguished delegates from both nations,

Friends from the media,

Namaskar!

Selamat pagi!

First of all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my close friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, for the warm welcome. Last year, I could not visit Malaysia for the ASEAN Summit. But I had promised my dear friend that I would come to Malaysia at the earliest opportunity. And today, in my very first foreign visit of the year 2026, I am here in Malaysia.

Friends,

The relationship between India and Malaysia is truly special. We are maritime neighbors. For centuries, our peoples have shared deep and affectionate bonds. Today, Malaysia is the second-largest country in the world with a population of Indian origin. Our civilizations are connected through shared cultural heritage and democratic values.

Friends,

In recent years, our ties have gained new momentum. My friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, has played a special role in this progress.

Our cooperation has grown stronger in energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing. Mutual investments have increased in the digital economy, biotechnology, and IT. Tourism and people-to-people ties have deepened further. Inspired by these achievements, today we have resolved to bring unprecedented speed and depth to our partnership.

Friends,

In the field of security, we will strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and maritime security. We will also broaden our defense collaboration.

Alongside AI and digital technologies, we will advance partnerships in semiconductors, health, and food security. The CEO Forum held today has opened new avenues for trade and investment. With strategic trust, we will pave the way for economic transformation.

Friends,

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to meet members of the Indian diaspora in Malaysia. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim graced the gathering with his presence, adding to its prestige. The three million-strong diaspora is a living bridge between our nations and a great source of strength. The steps taken for their welfare provide a human foundation to our relationship.

Measures such as the Social Security Agreement for Indian workers in Malaysia, gratis e-visas for tourism, and the implementation of India's digital payment interface UPI in Malaysia will make life easier for citizens of both countries. After all, any partnership is truly successful only when its benefits reach the people directly.

Friends,

India and Malaysia are also united by a shared love for the Tamil language. The strong and vibrant presence of Tamil in Malaysia is visible in education, media, and cultural life. I am confident that today's audio-visual agreement will bring our hearts closer through films and music, especially Tamil cinema.

We are also expanding opportunities for university exchanges, start-up connections, and skill development among our youth. To support our growing ties, we are opening a new consulate in Malaysia.

Friends,

The Indo-Pacific region is emerging as the engine of global growth. We remain committed to development, peace, and stability across the Indo-Pacific in partnership with ASEAN. India accords the highest priority to ASEAN centrality. I once again warmly congratulate Malaysia on its successful ASEAN chairmanship.

With the support of friendly nations like Malaysia, India will further broaden its relations with ASEAN. We agree that the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) should be completed at the earliest.

Friends,

Today, we also held meaningful discussions on regional and global issues. In this atmosphere of global instability, the growing friendship between India and Malaysia is of immense importance to both nations.

We share the view that reforms in global institutions are necessary to address today's challenges. We will continue to support all efforts for peace. And our message on terrorism is clear: No double standards. No compromise.

Excellency,

We deeply appreciate your commitment to India-Malaysia relations. Let us work together to realize your vision of a prosperous Malaysia and our resolve for a developed India.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for your friendship, your warm welcome, and your gracious hospitality. We look forward to welcoming you in India.

“Thank you very much.

Jumpa Lagi!

MJPS/VJ/ST

